

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

App. No. : 10/709,889 Confirmation No. 3888  
Applicant : Manabu Hashikura, et al.  
Filed : June 3, 2004  
T.C./A.U. : 2818  
Examiner : Nguyen, Dao H.  
Docket No. : 039.0043  
Customer No. : 29453

Honorable Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**REPLY Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**  
**Accompanying Request for Continued Examination**  
**Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114**

Sir:

In response to the Office action, made final and mailed on May 11, 2007 in the above-identified patent application, Applicants have elected to file a Request for Continued Examination (RCE).

As a submission required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(a) and defined in § 1.114(c), the following amendment accompanies the present RCE. The RCE and this amendment are being filed on August 13, 2007, the first business day following the Saturday August 11, 2007 date that is three calendar months from the mailing date of the Office action, and is therefore timely filed.

**AMENDMENT Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121**

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 5 of this paper.